

Welcome home, Expedition 8



NASA/INGALLS JSC2004E21246



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Astronaut C. Michael Foale, Expedition 8 commander and NASA International Space Station Science Officer, and his crewmates cosmonaut Alexander Y. Kaleri, Soyuz Flight Engineer representing Russia's Federal Space Agency, and European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut André Kuipers of the Netherlands, successfully landed in north central Kazakhstan on April 30, in their Soyuz TMA-3 capsule. Foale and Kaleri completed 195 days in space aboard the International Space Station while Kuipers returned after an 11-day research mission as part of a commercial agreement between ESA and Russia's Federal Space Agency.



Space Center Roundup

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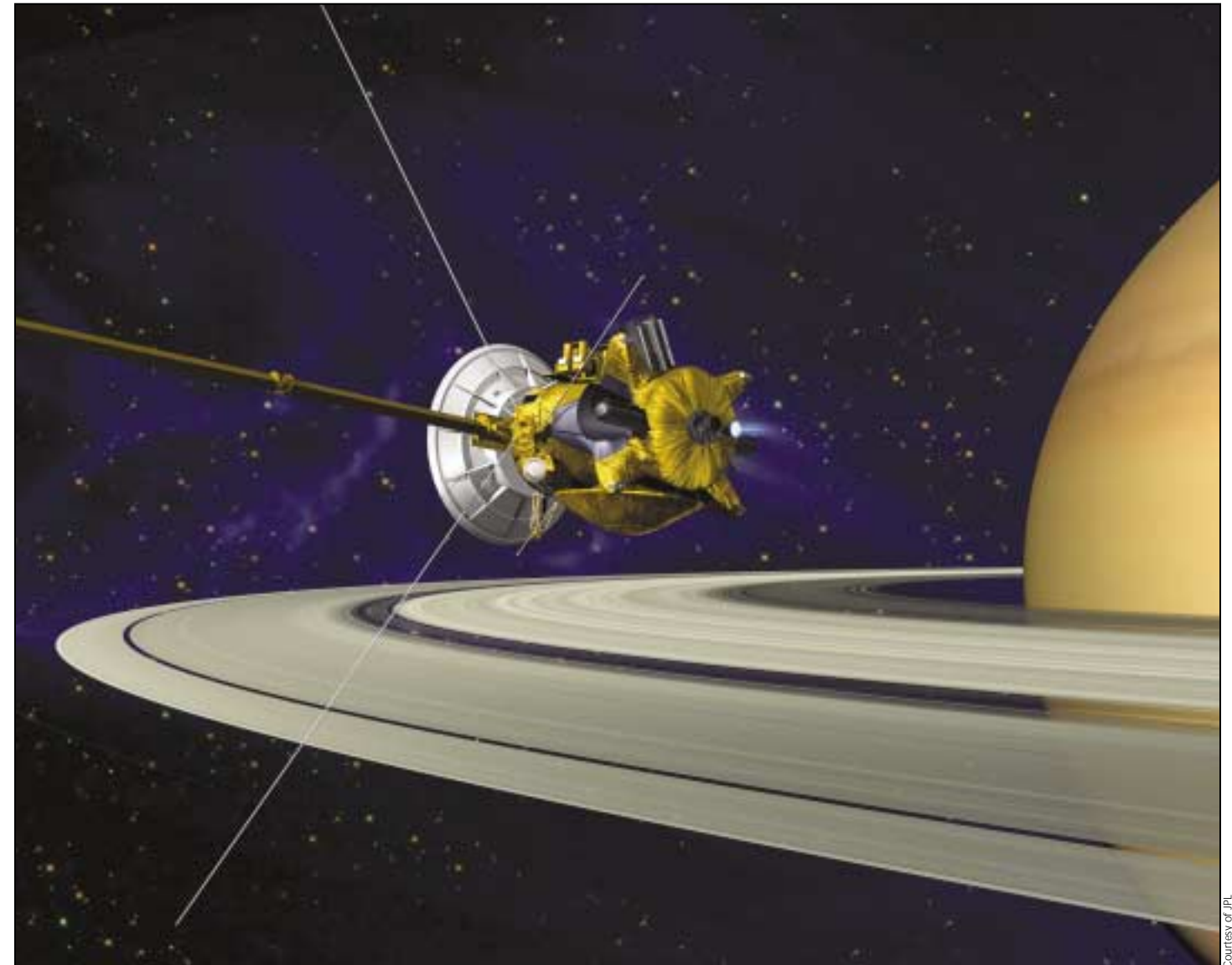
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Courtesy of JPL

Saturn unveiled

JPL's next major milestone will be the Cassini spacecraft's arrival at Saturn on July 1. This is an artist's concept of Cassini during the Saturn Orbit Insertion (SOI) maneuver, just after the main engine has begun firing. The spacecraft is moving out of the plane of the page and to the right (firing to reduce its spacecraft velocity with respect to Saturn) and has just crossed the ring plane.

The SOI maneuver, which is approximately 90 minutes long, will allow Cassini to be captured by Saturn's gravity into a five-month orbit. Cassini's close proximity to the planet after the maneuver offers a unique opportunity to observe Saturn and its rings at extremely high resolution.

Read more about Cassini's arrival on pages 4 and 5.

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